Ahmed et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,774,912, hereinafter "Ahmed"). The outstanding rejections are addressed as follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph

Claim 2 stands rejected because the term "a front porch and a back porch" allegedly renders the claim indefinite. This ground of rejection is traversed.

Initially, Applicant notes that the Examiner previously rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph in the first non-final Office Action dated April 9, 2003, wherein the Examiner stated that term "front porch and back porch" required more explanation. However, the Examiner withdrew this rejection in the final Office Action dated September 24, 2003 subsequent to Applicant's Amendment filed July 9, 2003 which specifically addressed the 112, 1st paragraph rejection.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of these terms as "relative terms." Applicant again submits that the terms "front porch" and "back porch" are terms of art, the meanings of which are readily apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art. Further, Applicant notes that the Examiner was referred to Wicker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,441,857) in the Amendment of July 9, 2003, which pointed out that the Wicker et al. reference had been cited by the Examiner in the first Office Action. Moreover, Wicker et al. at col. 5, lines 20-24 defines the front porch as the flat portion of a video waveform positioned between the end of the active signal and the beginning of the sync pulse. Additionally, at col. 5, lines 36-40, the back porch is defined as the portion of a video waveform that extends from the rising edge of the

horizontal sync pulse to the beginning of the active video signal. Further, Wicker et al. indicates that the definitions provided for the "front porch" and "back porch" are consistent with a generally accepted meaning.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the rejection of claim 2 is improper because the terms "front porch" and "back porch" are not relative terms. Rather, they are terms of art with a readily apparent meaning to one of ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Herbert further in view of Ahmed. This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

Applicant notes that the present application claims a foreign priority date of May 16, 2000 based on JP 2000-143933. Further, Applicant notes that the effective date of the Ahmed reference is March 16, 2000. Thus, Applicant hereby submits a Rule 131 Declaration demonstrating prior conception and diligence leading to constructive reduction of practice of the invention. In particular, Applicant submits the following:

1. An executed Declaration under Rule 1.131, which states that the invention was conceived at least by the date of February 29, 2000, and demonstrates due diligence from prior to March 16, 2000 to the date of filing JP 2000-143933;

2. A Notification of Employee's Invention and Assignment (Exhibit "A") together with an invention report dated February 29, 2000, which was submitted to NEC CORPORATION, the assignee of the present application;

3. An English translation of the Notification of Employee's Invention and Assignment (Exhibit "B");

4. A copy of the results of a prior art search conducted by NEC CORPORATION, dated March 8, 2000 (Exhibit "C");

5. An English translation of the results of the prior art search (Exhibit "D");

6. A copy of a letter from NEC CORPORATION to Shiga International Patent Office, of Tokyo, Japan, requesting preparation of a patent application based on the invention report submitted with the Notification of Employee's Invention and Assignment (Exhibit "E"); and

7. An English translation of the letter from NEC CORPORATION to Shiga International Patent Office (Exhibit "F").

Applicant submits that the foregoing documents clearly evidence conception of the present invention *at least* by February 29, 2000, which is prior to the effective date of March 16, 2000 of the Ahmed reference, together with due diligence from prior to the effective date of Ahmed to the filing date of priority document of the present application, which occurred on May 16, 2000. Therefore, the Ahmed reference is removed.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-8 are allowable at least because the Ahmed reference is removed from the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection and the Examiner

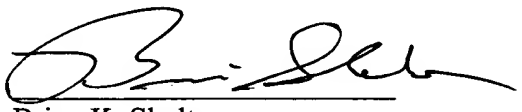
has conceded that Herbert fails to teach all the limitations of these claims. . Thus, allowance of claims 1-8 is hereby requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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